

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he has secured over \$1.2 million in congressionally-directed funding for local transportation, economic and community development programs.

“I’m thrilled to see taxpayer dollars return home to help fund critical transportation projects which will make our roads are safer, more efficient, and well maintained - fostering economic development and expansion right here where we need it most,” said Arcuri who is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “By upgrading critical infrastructure, especially to improve transportation between Rome and Utica, we can truly develop the whole region. Making sure we have the best possible transportation is the driving force for business development, commercial expansion, and increased tourism which will bring needed resources and jobs to our communities.”

\$700,000 – NYS Routes 5, 8, & 12 Viaduct and Route 5A and 5S. Funds will be used to reconstruct a viaduct that is structurally deficient and reconfigure the interchange of Route 5, 8 and 12 with Route 5A and 5S. The reconstruction of the viaduct will increase the capacity, reduce congestion and improve safety of the arterial – resulting in improved transportation between Rome and Utica. This project will reduce travel times and transportation costs, making the Utica-Rome area more attractive for economic development initiatives.

“I would like to thank Congressman Arcuri for his efforts to obtain funding for the area’s critical transportation infrastructure project to progress the replacement of the viaduct on the North-South Arterial - a structure nearing the end of its useful life on the highest volume roadway in the Mohawk Valley Region - and to provide a context sensitive project that is inline with the vision of the local community,” said Michael A. Shamma, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Regional Director. “Congressman Arcuri’s commitment to the improvement of the transportation network is consistent with the vision of Governor Eliot Spitzer and NYSDOT Commissioner Astrid C. Glynn to provide a safe, secure, and reliable transportation system while improving the environment and providing economic vitality.”

\$250,000 – Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA). Funds will be used for the design, land acquisition, and construction of a transit garage and maintenance facility in Utica. This facility would consolidate the two bus operating divisions of CENTRO of Oneida (one for Utica and surrounding towns, and one for the City of Rome) into a single, modern, safe, and energy efficient facility. CNYRTA began providing consolidated countywide transit service in Oneida County in 2005 under its subsidiary, Centro of Oneida.

Frank Kobliski, Executive Director of CENTRO said, “This funding is so critical because the facilities we inherited are outdated and unable to expand, there are safety issues and we have experienced flooding at the Utica garage. When you couple that with the fact that we are looking to consolidate the Rome and Utica garages, we are in desperate need of funding. We are extremely pleased with Congressman Arcuri’s assistance and support for this much needed project. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Arcuri truly recognizes the value of good public transportation.”

“I am also pleased to see hard-earned tax dollars returning to home to fund critical economic and community development programs that will bring new jobs and business to our cities,” said Arcuri. “We must work together to invest in downtown renovations that will foster economic development and help businesses grow right here where we need them. I will continue to work with local officials and business owners to make sure that our downtowns can grow and thrive.”

\$200,000 – Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation for redevelopment of the former Rome Cable facility in Rome, NY. The Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation (RCBRC), in partnership with the City of Rome, has undertaken the revitalization of the former Rome Cable facility to modify a portion of the former facility as part of business expansion/relocation by Owl Wire at the facility. To continue to support Owl Wire’s expansion, RCBRC plans to undertake important structural, environmental, and safety improvements at the site.

“We thank Congressman Arcuri for his support of this project. This grant will support the continued development of the former Rome Cable site to promote growth of companies such as Owl Wire,” said Robert Angelicola, President of RCBRC Board.

\$100,000 – Players Theater in Utica, NY – to construct a 10,400 square foot steel building that will be the home of the theater. This building will be located on the southwest corner of State St. and Mandeville St. in Utica, NY. The building will house a main stage theatre (250 seats), an educational theatre (75 seats), lobby, dressing rooms, rest rooms, Green room and box office.

“On behalf of Players of Utica we gratefully acknowledge the commitment and hard work put forth by Congressman Michael Arcuri on behalf of the organization,” said Vince Scalise, Vice

President to the Board of Governors. “The funds secured by Congressman Arcuri will assist Players of Utica, New York State’s oldest community theatre group, in continuing our strong tradition of delivering performing arts programs to the residents of Central New York. We are very excited about the far reaching economic and social impact that this funding will have, not only on Players, but the arts community in general. It brings us a few steps closer to fulfilling our commitment to youth education programs and bringing high-quality, affordable theatre to young and old alike.”

The funding secured by Arcuri is part of the fiscal year 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee this week. The legislation is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives next week and by the Senate in the coming weeks.

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